

REMARKS

This patent application presently includes claims 2 and 6-8, of which claim 2 is rejected and claims 6-8 are newly added. Claim 2 is rewritten in independent, amended form, and all rejections are respectfully traversed.

As originally presented, claim 2 recited that the reflector is composed of a side inclination. This was not believed to be a clear definition of the structure of the reflector and has now been clarified to state that the reflector has an inclination relative to the optical path.

Claim 2 is also amended to convert the "whereby" clause to a direct recitation of the respective limitation. This necessitated the changing "is" to "being" in the next to last line of the claim.

Claim 2 is also rewritten in independent form.

The preceding amendments to claim 2 were presented in order to clarify and improve its form and not for a statutory purpose related to patentability. Accordingly, claim 2 as presently presented has not been amended for any purpose related to the statutory requirements for patentability.

Claim 2 was rejected as anticipated by Aksuyuk et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,923,798. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Aksuyuk does not teach or suggest the presently claimed invention.

In accordance with claim 2, the mirror is displaced linearly in a direction perpendicular to the optical path, but its reflector has an inclination

relative to the optical path, so that any portion of the light in the optical path obstructed by the reflector is reflected in a path that does not coincide with the optical path. This assures that all wavelengths of light are equally attenuated and that no light emitted from the transmitting fiber is reflected back to it, which causes a noise signal.

In contrast to the claimed invention, the optical device 8 in Aksuyuk is moved in a direction perpendicular to the optical path, but the optical device is not inclined with respect to that path but perpendicular to it. Accordingly, any light obstructed by the optical device would not be reflected in a path that does not coincide with the optical path, and the benefits of the present invention would not be achieved.

Accordingly, claim 2 is believed to distinguish patentably over the cited prior art, and it should be allowed.

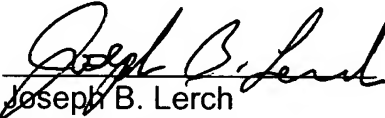
The remaining claims depend from claim 2 and are believed to be allowable, owing to their dependence from an allowable claim. However, certain of these claims are also believed to be allowable on their own merits. For example, claims 8 and 10 define the mirror as being wedge-shaped, which is not taught or suggested by the prior art. Claim 9 adds a further transmitting fiber, a further receiving fiber, and a further mirror with the same structure and configuration as the transmitting fiber, the receiving fiber, and the mirror. This

distinguishes additionally over the cited art for the same reasons as claim 2.

Accordingly, these claims are believed to be allowable on their own merits.

Applicants' attorney has made every effort to place this patent application in condition for allowance. It is therefore earnestly requested that this application, as a whole, receive favorable reconsideration and that all of the claims be allowed as presently constituted. Should there remain any unanswered questions, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,


Joseph B. Lerch
Reg. No. 26,936
Attorney For Applicants

DARBY & DARBY P.C.
P.O. BOX 5257
New York, NY 10150-5257
(212) 527-7700



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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Docket No.: 2598/OJ9552

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Yoon Shik HONG ET AL.

Serial No: 10/002,663

Group Art Unit: 2874

Filed: October 31, 2001

Examiner: Jennifer DOAN

Confirmation No.: 2438

For: VARIABLE OPTICAL ATTENUATOR OF OPTICAL PATH CONVERSION

AMENDMENT MARK-UP SHEET FOR AMENDMENT RESPONSIVE TO
OFFICE ACTION OF NOVEMBER 6, 2002

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington DC 20231

In the Claims:

2. (Amended) A path-converted variable optical attenuator comprising:

a transmitting fiber for launching an optical signal through a transmitting core;

a receiving fiber for receiving the optical signal from said transmitting fiber through a receiving core; and

a mirror having a reflector for obstructing the optical signal launched from said transmitting core of said transmitting fiber from proceeding into said receiving core of said receiving fiber, and being displaced in a direction allowing a portion of the optical signal of said transmitting fiber into said receiving fiber to attenuate the optical signal ;

[The path-converted variable optical attenuator according to claim 1,] wherein said mirror is linearly displaced in a direction perpendicular to an optical path between said transmitting fiber and said receiving fiber, wherein said reflector of said mirror [is composed of a side of] has an inclination relative to the optical path, [whereby] the optical signal launched from said transmitting fiber and reflected by said reflector of said mirror [is] being reflected in a path that does not coincide with the optical path between said transmitting fiber and said receiving fiber.